

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 L-03 NSF-01
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-15 INT-05 /117 W
-----119112 242225Z /73

R 241220Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9507
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05620

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:ECE, SENV, XG, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET APPROACH ON HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON
ENVIRONMENT

1. SOVIET DEPUTY PERMREP TO UN IN GENEVA I.A. ORNATSKI
RAISED QUESTION OF HIGH-LEVEL CONGRESS ON THE ENVIRON-
MENT WITH ACTING E/C COUNSELOR AT A RECENT RECEPTION.
ORNATSKI REITERATED STRONG SOVIET INTEREST IN HOLDING SUCH
A CONGRESS. EMBOFF REVIEWED EARLIER US VIEWS ON TIMING
AND AUSPICES OF ANY SUCH CONGRESS NOTING THAT HE HAD
DISCUSSED THESE WITH MFA LAST YEAR. ORNATSKI SAID HE
UNDERSTOOD THAT US AND SOVIET APPROACHES DIFFERED, WITH
SOVIETS PREFERRING A CONGRESS AT THE BEGINNING IN ORDER TO
GIVE THE PROCESS A POLITICAL PUSH AND U.S. VIEWING A
CONGRESS AS USEFUL ONLY TO GIVE FINAL TOUCHES TO PROPOSALS
WORKED OUT BY EXPERTS. WHEN EMBOFF AGAIN MENTIONED THE
NECESSITY TO HOLD ANY CONGRESS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
ECE, ORNATSKI SAID THAT SOVIETS HAVE AGREED THAT SUCH A
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CONGRESS SHOULD BE HELD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ECE,
PER THE DECISIONS AT THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION.
ORNATSKI THEN EXPRESSED SOVIET DISAPPOINTMENT AT LUKEWARM
REACTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT BY THE U.S.

2. ORNATSKI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE
TAKING PLACE IN CAPITALS, AND STRONGLY URGED THAT WE COME

IN TO SEE THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS
DEPARTMENT AT MFA.

3. COMMENT: GENEVA IS AND, IN OUR VIEW, SHOULD REMAIN THE
MAIN LOCUS OF US-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE. WE
CONSIDER THAT EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE ANY
INITIATIVE TO OPEN TALKS WITH SOVIET UNION IN MOSCOW. IN
FACT, GIVEN THE RESULTS OF BELGRADE, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE
U.S. HOLD BACK ON THE SUBJECT OF HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS
ON THE BREZHNEV INITIATIVES TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH RETI-
CENCE DOES NOT GET US SERIOUSLY OUT OF STEP WITH OUR ALL-
IES. AS THE SOVIETS MAY NEVERTHELESS CALL US IN ON THIS
SUBJECT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S SENDING US
TALKING POINTS TO BE USED ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: CONTINGENCY TALKING POINTS. TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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